

According to the Quran, how many prayers have been enjoined on every day and night?

At first sight, you can imagine that this post is a duplicate of my other post entitled “**How many prayers has God enjoined – 3, 4, 5 or 6?**” No, this is not true, not at all!

In the other post, I have given details on the prayers when Moses went to God two to ten times, where God enjoined to Mahomet fifty prayers and he requested reduction in the number as the nation of Mahomet would not be able to do that. Finally, God, on the order of Moses, reduced the fifty prayers and made it five. I discussed the number that God made obligatory and that the *Sunnis* and *quraniyyoune* differ. I hope that you ponder on this article!

In this present post, I will discuss prayers in the Quran and we will see how many has God enjoined – **swalaat** (singular) or **swalawaat** (plural). Is **swalaat** a collective noun, that is to say, when we say **swalaat**, we mean all the existing prayers that God has ordained, the five daily prayers or six if we count the Friday prayer.

In the Quran, the word **swalawaat** is mentioned five times with the following meanings:

1. Prayers that people use to perform (2/238; 22/40; 23/9).
2. Blessing from the Lord (2/57).
3. Invocation of the messenger (9/99).

By the fact that the Quran mentioned it in the plural form to mean prayers that people perform, this is a proof that it exists. As I said before, it seems that **swalaat** is not a collective noun!

In dictionaries, the word **swalaat** means:

Act of devotion, oration, prayer, and religious prayer, act with which one addresses to God, meditation, supplication, intercession, blessing, and grace of God.

In all dictionaries that I consulted, it is nowhere mentioned that the word **swalaat** is a collective noun or word. Dictionaries always say that the plural of **swalaat** is **swalawaat**.

In the so-called “Islamic” dictionaries, the word **swalaat** means:

The term used in the Quran, as well as amongst all Muslims in every part of the world, for the liturgical form of prayer, which is recited five times a day on account of which is given the articles of prayer (Dictionary of Islam – Thomas Patrick Hughes).

Here also, we find that **swalaat** is in the singular and there are five prayers every day and night.

In “Islamic” dictionaries for the youth, we find the following:

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Linguistically, **swalaat** means invocation (in the singular).

According to Islamic law, it means: *An act of devotion (in the singular) which has its own clear rules and the times is already determined* (Dictionary of those who are growing up and the youth: page 99.)

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Swalawaat are prayers (in the plural) prescribed and obligatory and they are: the morning, the forenoon, the afternoon, the sunset and the prayer at night.

What we can say, is that **swalaat** is in singular and is not a collective noun which encompasses all prayers. Here are the word and its derivatives:

1. It means prayers that people used to perform (only one prayer according to the majority of verses of the Quran) and they still perform it without knowing what it means and without realizing what they are performing. Later I will come to this.
2. The prayer of *Shu'ayb*, the same prayer in singular which the Quran mentions. I believe that it means invocation here. See [11/87](#).
3. **Al-muswalline**, derived from **swalla**, those who perform prayers ([72/20](#); [74/43](#)).
4. Jesus said that God advised him to perform prayer (**swalaat**) ([19/31](#)).
5. *Ishmael* ordered his family to perform prayer (**swalaat**) ([19/55](#)).
6. Mahomet received orders to enjoin prayer (**swalaat**) to his family members ([20/132](#)).
7. Mahomet was ordered to read (the Quran) aloud in his prayer (**swalaat**) ([17/100](#)).
8. Mahomet was given order to abstain from praying (**swalaat**) funeral prayer of a hypocrite ([9/84](#)).
9. Mahomet was ordered to make invocation for people as his invocation was a blessing for them ([9/103](#)).
10. God knows the prayer of the bird (as they adore Him) ([24/10](#)).
11. Abraham said: My prayer (**swalaat**), my sacrifice ... ([6/162](#)). Did he mean the prayer that Muslims are performing today (**swalaat**)?
12. God and His angels send prayer (**youswallouna**) on Mahomet ... and believers have been ordered to send prayer on him (**swallou**) ([33/43](#), [56](#)).
13. Those performing prayer (**swalaat**) has been threatened ([7/104](#)).
14. The word "**swalawaat**" means "**synagogues**" according to translators, strange isn't it? ([22/40](#))
15. *Zachary* performed prayer (**swalaat**) in the *mihrab* ([3/39](#)). Was the prayer performed by him the same as the prayer that are performed today?
16. *Lugman* said to his son: Perform prayer (**swalaat**) ([31/17](#)).

Before mentioning the verses of the Quran where the word "**swalaat**" is mentioned instead of "**swalawaat**", I quote those verses where the later has been mentioned together with its different meanings:

They are those on whom are blessing from their Lord, and mercy (2/157).

Guard strictly the prayers especially the middle one (2/238).

And a cause of receiving the messenger's invocations (9/99).

And monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques ... (22/40).

And those who strictly guard their prayers (23/9).

أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ ۖ

حَافِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَىٰ

وَصَلَوَاتِ الرَّسُولِ ...

لَهُدًى مِّنْ صَوَامِعُ وَبَيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدُ

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَوَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ

The other instances where the word *swalla* in the past tense or *swalaat* in the singular are mentioned, I have not mentioned it because they have been used correctly.

Now, we will see the word *swalaat*, where it is mentioned instead of *swalawaat* in the plural form:

Source references	Correction	Mistakes
2/3 ; 9/71	وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَوَاتِ	وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ
2/43, 83, 110 ; 4/77 ; 10/87 ; 24/56 ; 30/31 ; 73/20 ;	وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَوَاتِ	وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ
2/177, 277 ; 7/170 ; 9/5, 18 ; 13/22 ; 21/73 ; 24/37 ; 29/45 ; 35/18 ; 35/29 ; 42/38	وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَوَاتِ	وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ
4/43	لَا تَقْرُبُوا الصَّلَوَاتِ	لَا تَقْرُبُوا الصَّلَاةَ
4/101	أَنْ تَقْضُوا مِنَ الصَّلَوَاتِ	أَنْ تَقْضُوا مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ
4/103	إِنَّ الصَّلَوَاتِ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْفُوتًا	إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْفُوتًا
4/142	وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ	وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ
4/162	وَالْمُقِيمِينَ الصَّلَوَاتِ	وَالْمُقِيمِينَ الصَّلَاةَ
5/12	لَنْ أَقْمَتُمُ الصَّلَوَاتِ	لَنْ أَقْمَتُمُ الصَّلَاةَ
5/55 ; 8/3 ; 14/37 ; 27/3 ; 31/4	الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَوَاتِ	الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ

6/72	وَأَبْ أَقِيمُوا الصَّلَوات	وَأَبْ أَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ
6/92	وَهُمْ عَلَى صَلَواتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ	وَهُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ
9/11	فَإِن تَابُوا وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَوات	فَإِن تَابُوا وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ
9/54	وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الصَّلَوات	وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الصَّلَاةَ
14/31	قُلْ لِّلْعِبَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُقِيمُوا الصَّلَوات	قُلْ لِّلْعِبَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ
22/41	أَقَامُوا الصَّلَوات	أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ
70/23	الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَواتِهِمْ دَائِمُونَ	الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ دَائِمُونَ
107/5	الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَواتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ	الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ
19/59	فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا	فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا
	الصَّلَوات	الصَّلَاةَ
20/14	وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَوات لِذِكْرِي	وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي
22/35	وَالْمُقِيمِ الصَّلَوات	وَالْمُقِيمِ الصَّلَاةَ
22/78 ; 58/13	فَأَقِمْ الصَّلَوات	فَأَقِمْ الصَّلَاةَ
23/2	الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَواتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ	الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ
29/45	وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَوات إِنِ ابْنِ الصَّلَوات تَنهى عَنِ	وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنِ ابْنِ الصَّلَاةَ تَنهى عَنِ
	الْفَحْشاءِ	الْفَحْشاءِ
33/33	وَأَقِمْنَ الصَّلَوات	وَأَقِمْنَ الصَّلَاةَ
70/34	وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَواتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ	وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ
98/5	وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَوات	وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ

So, here is what I have seen as errors concerning the words and I corrected them. If ever, according to you, I committed mistakes, please correct me by sending an email to tukodari@gmail.com. Thank you!